



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

Civic Works, Baltimore, MD

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Civic Works-Baltimore for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. The City and County of Baltimore are Civic Works' assessment pilot partners. The City of Baltimore also is the recipient of a Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot. Two-thirds of the residents of the City of Baltimore (population about 645,000) are African American. A quarter of the City's residents live below the poverty level and 10% are unemployed. Almost one-third of the land in the City of Baltimore is zoned for industrial use.

The Job Training Pilot will focus on the federally designated Empowerment Zone in eastern Baltimore. Between 3,500 and 5,500 acres in the Empowerment Zone are underdeveloped due to perceived contamination. Neighborhoods in the area suffer from a lack of jobs and economic investment. In addition, the City's diminishing tree cover has negatively affected its poorest communities. There is a need for training in hazardous materials handling skills for those employed in planting vegetation in the contaminated soils of brownfields. The Job Training Pilot will train residents with the skills needed to preliminarily assess sites and implement protective permanent vegetation,

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Baltimore, Maryland

Date of Announcement:
December 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will train 50 young adults for entry-level positions in brownfields revegetation, forestation, and phytoremediation projects. Students will be recruited from the federal Empowerment Zone in eastern Baltimore, which contains between 3,500 and 5,500 acres of underdeveloped and potentially contaminated properties.

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Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/brownfld/hmpage1.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

forestation, and phytoremediation projects on brownfields sites in the City.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Civic Works-Baltimore plans to train 50 participants, achieve a 75% placement rate, and conduct follow-up for one year after the training is completed. Participants will be recruited from young adults among Baltimore's population who have completed high school or their GED. The 12-week Pilot training program will include HAZWOPER training, soil sampling, site assessment skills, basic ecology, landscaping and nursery training, and phytoremediation botany.

The training efforts of Civic Works will be supported by organizations such as Cornell University, The American Forests Association, The Urban Forest Initiative, the Baltimore Office of Employment Development, Community Resources, Inc., National Aquarium in Baltimore, and additional non-profit and community-based organizations. Volunteers will work under the supervision of Cornell University to create native vegetation research stations as models of the value of this innovative technology to local landowners. Local employers have committed to hire graduates.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit young adults from Baltimore who have completed high school or their GED;
- Conducting training for entry-level positions in brownfield revegetation, forestation, and phytoremediation projects; and
- Supporting career placement of students for one year after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.